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25X1

TOPIC KOETHEN Airfield

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  DATE OF CONTENT  

25X1

DATE OBTAINED  

DATE PREPARED 1 November 1949

REFERENCES

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  25X1PAGES 2ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  

REMARKS

This document is hereby received

Next Review Date: 2008

1. It was observed that the occupation of the KOETHEN (M 52/D 95) airfield had changed. There were about 1,200 air force soldiers.   the unit previously stationed there had been transferred to DESSAU (M 52/E 17).\*

2. The airfield was occupied by 45 fighters with radial engines, 17 single-engine aircraft with in-line engines and 14 biplanes.

 . Some of these planes had blue engine cowlings and blue rudder assembly tips. There was local flying. It was noticeable that the newly arrived unit was well equipped with oil trucks and coolant trucks.

3. Twenty officers were taken by truck   to the DESSAU railroad station where they boarded a train. Friedrich-Engel-Strasse, occupied by air force officers, was being evacuated. The truck   was assigned to this work. A railroad car loaded with furniture of the unit newly arrived at the airfield  . Three railroad freight cars loaded with furniture had come from GROSSENHAIN and were standing on the spur track.\*

4. Forty fighters with radial engines, twenty-four single-engine aircraft with in-line engines and seven biplanes were counted at the airfield.

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5. No jet aircraft have been observed at the airfield. The field was probably not suitable for jet fighters due to its insufficient length and uneven surface.

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The field was occupied by 44 low-wing monoplanes with in-line engines, 15 to 20 fighters with radial engines, 10 biplanes, and 4 Boston-IIIs. From the way these aircraft were parked it was assumed that six squadrons of single-engine aircraft were present. The planes were marked by a white-bordered blue rectangle and two gray stripes around their fuselages. Eight of the planes also had white wing tips. Sixty-one aircraft in groups of from 8 to 12 planes took off between 3:45 p.m. and 5:35 p.m. Later a convoy of eight motor vehicles loaded with air force soldiers and beds left the airfield. The convoy included a tank truck [redacted] A transfer was presumably under way.

7. Thirty single-engine aircraft with radial and in-line engines, four biplanes and one Boston-III were parked at the airfield in the evening. All the officers' billets on Friedrich-Engel-Strasse were reoccupied. Six fuel containers, each 10 feet long and 5 feet in diameter, were being dug into the ground in the airfield area northeast of the kaserne. Two watchtowers were being erected. More wooden garages were being set up.

8. Thirty-five single-engine low-wing monoplanes with long in-line engines and white propeller hubs were counted at the KOETHEM airfield in the morning. Although the weather was favorable only four biplanes took off.

25X1 Comment:

- \* The information on the transfer to DESSAU of an air unit previously stationed in KOETHEM is considered credible since another source reported that a unit from KOETHEM arrived in DESSAU. It is assumed that this unit is the fighter regiment previously stationed in KOETHEM. The KOETHEM reconnaissance regiment apparently has not been transferred [redacted]

[redacted] strength  
[redacted] The ground attack unit of regimental /  
probably arrived from GROSSENHAIN.

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